



CITY OF MESA
Historic Preservation Program

Acting Historic Preservation Officer
John Wesley



Historic Preservation Board

Donna Benge, Chair
Wendy Mack-Allred, Vice Chair
Pamela Young
Clara Ziervogel
Michelle Dahlke

Architect Consultant: Ron Peters
Historian Consultant: Vic Linoff

Certified Local Government (CLG) Inventory
(Includes properties on local and national registers)

1999	Evergreen H.D. (L), (N)
1999	West Second Street H.D. (L), (N)
1999	Glenwood/ Wilbur H.D. (L), (N)
2000	Temple H.D. (L), (N)
2003	Robson H.D. (L), (N)
2010	Fraser Fields H.D. (L), (N)
2010	West Side Clark H.D. (N)

**Certified Local Government
(CLG)
Annual Report 2012-2013**

Mesa Grande Cultural Park

Visitor Center Opens!



I am thrilled to announce that the City of Mesa, in conjunction with the Arizona Museum of Natural History, has opened the Mesa Grande Cultural Park, complete with a brand new visitor's center.

The grand opening on January 19th, 2013 saw over 1,000 people attend! This project has been very near and dear to my heart for the past 13 years and I could not be more excited that the project has come to fruition and is now open for everyone to enjoy.

Located at 1000 North Date Street, the Mesa Grande ruins are what archaeologists believe to be the religious and cultural center of a large Hohokam settlement that was abandoned sometime in the 1400's. It is one of the most historically significant places in our great state, and I could not be prouder that it is right here in Mesa.

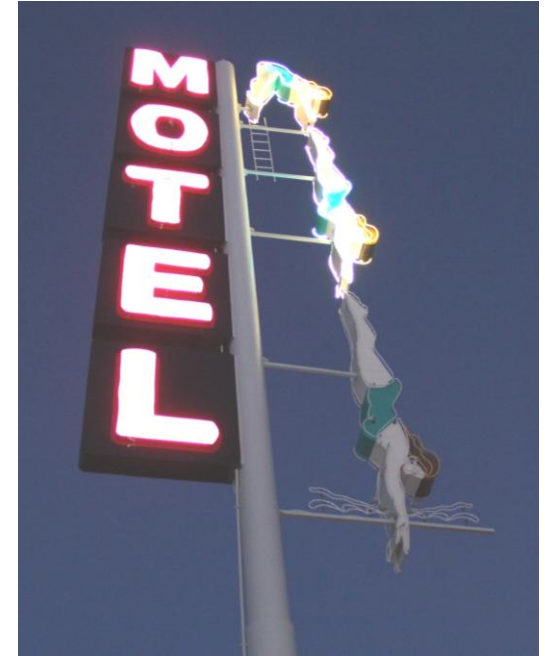
The construction and now opening of the visitor's center is the culmination of hard work put in by a large group of neighbors who wanted to help preserve and honor this treasured piece of Arizona and Mesa history.

Inside the visitor's center are photos of the site through the years, as well as several Hohokam artifacts, ranging from pottery to games. I highly recommend visiting and learning about the ancient history of our region.

Councilmember, Dave Richins

The Diving Lady Returns!

On Tuesday, April 2, 2013 Mesa Mayor, Scott Smith, attended the re dedication ceremony where he flipped the switch that illuminated sign. The hauntingly beautiful Diving Lady has once again risen to her diving perch and shall continue her historic reign on Main St.



Approximately, 500 people were at the Starlite Motel on April 2nd to see the Diving Lady return to her nightly routine, a three-part plunge from the top of the motel sign.



Work Plan for 2013 and 2014

- HPB is working on establishment of a historic commercial district for downtown Mesa.
- HPB continues working with local residents to make the Second Avenue area a residential historic district.
- HPB will be working with the residents in the Westside Clark Historic District to obtain their local registration.
- HPB will be supportive to help residents in Washington/Escobedo, Sherwood and Beverly to establish their neighborhoods as a Historic District.
- HPB is assisting with Interpretive History Panels for the Mesa Light Rail Stations.
- HPB submitted the Nomination for the former Mesa Library at 59 E. First Street to be registered as a Landmark for the Local and National Registers.
- HPB Sub-Committee is working on signage, to commemorate historic local highways (US 60, 70, 80, and 89).
- HPB will continue to work with Mesa school children to introduce the importance of Historic Preservation through their submittal of a written essay competition.

Buckhorn Baths – Update

The City of Mesa is in talks to purchase and possibly restore the historic Buckhorn Baths Motel after voters approved a \$70 million bond last fall that includes money for renovating some of the city's landmarks.

Currently, the city's real estate department is in working with the property's trustee, Ted Slinger Jr., son of long-time owners Ted and Alice Slinger on a possible deal.

Should the City of Mesa be successful in acquiring the land, the first interest is in preservation.

"We believe there is no place quite like the Buckhorn anywhere in the world".

The "Mesa Room" Local History Archives and Special Collections at the Mesa Public Library

The source for Mesa's collective memory, the primary mission of the Mesa Room is to collect, preserve, and make available for research, materials on historic and present-day Mesa. We endeavor to provide prompt and professional information services to Mesa residents, City of Mesa employees, researchers and visitors. We promote knowledge and understanding of the City of Mesa through collaborative efforts with other historical and cultural institutions.

The Mesa Room Services

- Reference and research assistance on Mesa topics
- Access to archival manuscripts and oral histories documenting a diverse citizenry and prominent Mesans; personal papers and biographies of founding families; archival records of Mesa community organizations and businesses; current information on Mesa schools, businesses, and organizations; maps of Mesa, past and present; and photographs of Mesa and its peoples
- Access to current publications, as well as permanent historic records created by Mesa municipal agencies
- Programs, workshops, and outreach to help Mesans learn about their heritage and how to preserve it
- Consulting for individuals, agencies, and organizations on preservation of historical records and disaster mitigation and recovery

Wish List...

- Full Time Historic Preservation Officer
- Increase Community Volunteer Programs
- Funding for more Residential Neighborhood Survey Studies
- Complete and install the US Highways 60,70,80 and 89 signage for Main Street

Mesa Historical Museum Lisa Anderson, President /CEO

Mesa historical museum more than city's attic....
The Mesa Historical Museum had sat on an out-of-the-way corner in Lehi for a generation - an afterthought, if even that, to the hundreds of thousands who had turned a tiny farming town into one of the nation's biggest cities. Had it gone away? It almost did go away. But the museum pulled back from the brink just in time to share - and help guide - the massive makeover of Mesa's image and psyche of the past few years.

A temporary downtown campus, for which the museum hosted a grand opening Oct. 4, is the physical symbol of that new era - one the museum hopes will soon be embodied in a permanent downtown home as the Lehi campus itself fades into history. Beginning May 6, 2013, the Mesa Historical Museum completed the first phase of its planned move to downtown Mesa.

The Lehi campus will become a museum annex for multiple museum initiatives, while our exhibitions will now be shown at our museum at 51 East Main Street.

The permanent move to the former Post Office building at the corner of Pepper and MacDonald is now underway. The museum is working with the City of Mesa to renovate the space with a completion date scheduled for the summer of 2015.

In January we held the 13th Annual Historic Home Tour and so much more. The tour featured the Evergreen Historic District with special stops to the Lehi School (Mesa Historical Museum), the newly opened Mesa Grande Cultural Park, the Mitten House, Irving School, the Alston House, Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, First Methodist Church and Mesa's oldest historic homes.

In April, 2013 there was a fun and informative "Cemetery Tour" of the City of Mesa Cemetery located at 1212 N. Center Street, Mesa.

Opening in July of this year is a brand new exhibit on "Spring Training Baseball" and the popular "Wallace and Ladmo Show".

Southwest Archaeology Team (SWAT)

The Southwest Archaeology Team (SWAT) which is affiliated with the Arizona Museum of Natural History had another active year. Working in association with the Santa Cruz Historical Museum Board, Team members spent the first Saturday of each month helping to restore a historic Toltec School in Eloy. The previous year, they completed restoring a one-room schoolhouse on the same property. Another on-going project is the stabilization of the Pueblo Grande mound site. Known as the Mud Slingers, a crew works there once a month. Members are also involved in stabilizing a historic stone building at the Mesa Park of the Canals.

Several of the team participated on the planning committee for the Grand Opening of the Mesa Grande Cultural Park. In preparation for that, a clean-up crew made sure that all the weeds and trash were removed from the site and that the trails were in perfect condition. During the opening, they provided activities for children and answered questions at the nine information stations along the trails.

In addition SWAT was involved in planning the 2013 Archaeology Expo held at the Horseshoe Ranch at the Agua Fria National Monument. During the Expo, they provided activities for the participants, helped Girl Scouts earn archaeology badges, and had an information table.

Members are also part of the exhibition building team at the museum, and a dozen meet each Wednesday evening in the lab. A newsletter is published quarterly and meetings are also held four times a year. SWAT has a website and is on Face Book. During the year members contributed hundreds of volunteer service hours.

Submitted by: Donna Benge, Chair



(SWAT) Volunteer,
Ed Mack documenting
artifacts at the Lab.

Arizona Museum of Natural History



What is the Arizona Museum of Natural History?

The Arizona Museum of Natural History is the premier natural history museum in Arizona. It is dedicated to inspire wonder, respect and understanding for the natural and cultural history of the Southwest.

What will I experience at the Natural History Museum?

Explore Arizona and the Southwest from the creation of the earth 4.5 billion years ago to the present. See the origins of life on earth, meteorites and minerals. In [Dinosaur Hall](#), discover some of the biggest dinosaurs that ever lived, and on [Dinosaur Mountain](#) see how some appeared and sounded in a natural context. In a [Walk through Time](#), explore ancient Arizona's Paleozoic Seas, Triassic Petrified Forest, monsters of the Cretaceous Seas, and the first animals to fly. In the [Southwest Gallery](#), you will see Paleoindian big game hunters and gatherers, the first inhabitants of North America, and the Desert Cultures that developed later. Visit a Hohokam village, with pithouses and above-ground structures, outfitted with real artifacts as they might have been from about A.D. 600-1450. See the magnificent [Ancient Cultures of Mexico](#). Have Fun with History, and explore the Spanish Southwest, Territorial Arizona, and Arizona's historic 5 Cs in the History Courtyard. Discover many of the movies that have been filmed in Arizona, and be in a western movie yourself!

Does the museum conduct active field research?

The Arizona Museum of Natural History is renowned for its field research programs and provides the public with opportunities to work on archaeological and paleontological digs. Come join us on one of our exciting scientific expeditions and contribute to these fascinating fields of science.

Pioneer Park Locomotive #2355

The Save Our Train citizens' committee, formed in March 2008, is raising funds and public awareness to relocate the century old Southern Pacific locomotive to the front of the park where it will be cosmetically restored and become a permanent display. Funding efforts include 'Buy a Yard', where a donation of \$250 to move the train a distance of one yard will be acknowledged with the donor's name on a plaque at the new train location. Other fundraisers include an annual Family-Style Car Show in November at the Park, golf and bowling tournaments and the sale of train-related items such as T-shirts, tote-bags and train paraphernalia.

As part of the November 2012 Bond package, Pioneer Park will be redesigned and the locomotive move will be part of that process.

The new location at the front of the park will be near the proposed Mesa Drive Light Rail station, and will offer opportunities for Metro Light Rail passengers and the public to learn about the history of the locomotive as well as learning about the importance of the railroad in Mesa's development.

The committee is sponsored by the Foundation for Mesa Parks and Recreation, a 501 [c] 3 organization. The train has also been named an Official State of Arizona Centennial Project by the Arizona Historical Advisory Committee and the Save Our Train Committee has been recognized and awarded by the Mesa Historical Preservation Board.

Submitted by: Jim Ruiz, CPPB
Support Services Administrator
Fleet Services Department
City of Mesa, AZ



**A Message from the Mesa Historic Preservation Board Chair
For FY 2012-2013**

It has been an exciting and productive year for the Historic Preservation Board (HPB). We gained three new members but also lost three. New members included Pamela Young, Clara Ziervogel, and Michelle Dahlke. Resigning from the group were Barry Roth, Randy Mann, and Chad Cluff.

Historic Preservation Commissions from Mesa, Tempe, Phoenix, Glendale, and Scottsdale formed a consortium this year consisting of Chairs and Vice-Chairs from each city. At meetings we discussed how we might work together to accomplish goals and learn from one another about our successes and failures. Mesa hosted the group in June.

We are still working on getting signage for Main Street in Mesa indicating that it was the original route for coast-to-coast Highways 60, 70, and 80 and border-to-border Highway 89. The design has been developed and approved by the board. Many motels and signage from this era still remain showing that Main Street was an important tourist route, and we would like the general public to know about this heritage.

A workshop for residents interested in becoming local historic districts was held in October. Homeowners in the Second Avenue neighborhood are gathering signatures on Prop. 207 waivers hoping that their area will become a Mesa Historic District. Other neighborhoods interested in doing this include the Sherwood area, the Washington Park-Escobedo section, and the Clark neighborhood which is already on the National Register of Historic Places.

A member of the board suggested that we have an essay writing contest for students in Mesa, and the idea was supported. Elementary students from 4th – 6th grade were invited to write a historic fiction story involving an event that happened in Mesa at least ten years ago. (That's history for children of this age.) There were five entries. At the May City Council meeting, the students were given certificates, and the first through third place winners received monetary awards donated by a board member. We plan to have another contest during the coming year.

Ron Peters, a historic architect and past member of the HPB, nominated the former library at 59 East First Street to become a Mesa Historic Landmark. The HPB chair member went to meet and speak with each City Council member and the Mayor, giving them an information pamphlet about the unique building which included photographs, its' history, and solid reasons why it needs to be preserved as a Landmark. The City Council has allowed the board to move forward with the nomination.

Members of the MPB have been working on a Mesa Historic Downtown Walking Tour. Two tours are featured in a booklet describing historic buildings, one to the north of the City Plaza at Main and Center and another to the west. The booklet is being printed by Salt River Project.

Two 2013 City of Mesa Historic Preservation Awards for Outstanding Achievement were presented at the June City Council meeting. One was given to the Arizona Museum of Natural History in Archaeology and in Education and Outreach for their efforts to develop and open the Mesa Grande Cultural Park to the public. Another was presented to the Mesa Historic Preservation Foundation for outstanding achievement in rehabilitation and restoration of the "Diving Lady" historic neon sign.

Two MPB members and John Wesley were part of the planning committee for the Arizona Historic Preservation Conference to be held in Mesa on June 12 -15. All the members of the board plan to attend the conference. At the Awards Luncheon, the Arizona Museum of Natural History/City of Mesa will receive the 2013 Governor's Archaeology Advisory Commission Award in Public Archaeology for their efforts to open Mesa Grande Cultural Park to the public. The Mesa Preservation Foundation will be given the 2013 Governor's Heritage Preservation Honor Award for their efforts to restore the iconic historic neon "Diving Lady" sign.

Wendy Mack-Allred and John Wesley created a field study session for the conference entitled 2nd Avenue Historic District Strategic Plan. The HPB chair will take part in the field study session, Mesa Downtown Commercial Historic District. She did much of the research about the building histories for the HPB tour booklet so will relate that information to the participants.

It has been a very rewarding year for me as chair of the Historic Preservation Board, and I'm proud of what we have been able to accomplish. My six year membership on the board is over now, but I will continue to promote historic preservation in Mesa. I wish success to the future boards; may you continue to make great strides in the future years.

Submitted by, Donna Benge

City of Mesa and Historic Preservation

The purpose of Mesa's Historic Preservation Program is to facilitate public knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the City's historic past, promote better awareness of its architectural and cultural history, and foster civic and neighborhood pride so that future generations will have the opportunity to appreciate and understand Mesa's unique cultural heritage. Mesa's efforts to preserve its history are documented each year in an Annual Report.

The Historic Preservation Office provides the historic planning function for the City of Mesa. Please visit the [Mesa Historical Museum](#) to learn more on the history of Mesa. The [Historic Preservation Board](#) meets monthly to provide input and direction to the City's historic preservation efforts.

There are two types of historic districts and properties: [National Register Properties](#), and locally designated properties. The procedures and requirements for local designation of historic properties are provided in chapters 23 and 74 of the [Zoning Ordinance](#) (Title 11 of the [Mesa City Code](#)).

Acting Historic Preservation Officer:	John Wesley	Telephone:	(480) 644-2181	Email:	John.Wesley@mesaaz.gov
Phone:	(480) 644-2385 Office Hours: 7:00 am to 6:00 pm, M-TH (CLOSED FRIDAYS & HOLIDAYS)				
Location:	55 N. Center St., Mesa, AZ 85201	Website:	http://www.mesaaz.gov/planning/historicpreservation.aspx		

Types of Applications and the Review Process

Historic Overlays. An [historic district overlay](#) helps maintain the integrity of an established, older neighborhood. An [historic landmark overlay](#) is used to help maintain the integrity of an individual property with historic significance. Creation of a district is a zoning action requested by property owners and approved by the City Council following a public hearing. Once a district is in place, property owners must receive approval from the City's Historic Preservation Officer before exterior remodel and repair work can be done.

[Certificate of Appropriateness.](#) Within established local historic districts or landmarks, a certificate of appropriateness is required from the City's Historic Preservation Officer prior to doing any repair or remodel work on the exterior of a structure. These applications are handled administratively by staff. If the applicant does not agree with the requirements of the CHPO, the decision can be appealed to the HPC.

[Demolition Permit.](#) Before a structure in a historic district or landmark can be demolished it must receive approval from the Historic Preservation Officer. Typically, unless there is an immediate hazard, the request will be denied which will trigger a 6 month review process to look for ways to save the structure. At the end of that review period, if a plan has not been established to save the structure, the structure may then be demolished.

[Section 106 Review.](#) Section 106 Reviews are reviews of properties to see if development taking place in the area utilizing federal funding or providing for telecommunications (cell towers) will negatively impact any historic or archeological resource. 106 Reviews are done administratively by the Historic Preservation Officer.

The City of Mesa updates its website on a regular basis. Please visit the website to see what Mesa is doing to contribute and support Historic Preservation.

NEW! Historic Preservation Awards

Mesa Historic Preservation Plan
Mesa Historic Property Register
Map of Historic Districts and Landmarks
Description of Existing Historic Districts

<http://www.mesaaz.gov/planning/historicpreservation.aspx>

Links to State and National Resources:

Arizona State Historic Preservation Office
Secretary of the Interior
National Historic Landmarks
National Register of Historic Places
Historic Preservation Tax Incentives
Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings

<http://www.mesaaz.gov/planning/historicpreservation.aspx>